

PAGE 001  
TOT: 07 MAR 78

(610)  
DIRECTOR

07 DIRECTOR

1. ON 25 NOV 1970 U.S. CITIZEN MICHAEL VERNON TOWNLEY, AT HIS REQUEST, WAS INTERVIEWED BY [REDACTED] TOWNLEY SAID HE HAD LIVED IN CHILE FROM 1957 TO 1967 AND MARRIED A CHILEAN NATIONAL ON 22 JUL 61. FROM MARCH 67 TO 70 HE AND WIFE HAD LIVED IN MIAMI AREA BUT THAT THEY RETURNING CHILE TO LIVE PERMANENTLY. HE OFFERED HIS SERVICES IN SANTIAGO IN ANY WAY AGENCY BELIEVED APPROPRIATE. TOWNLEY WAS THANKED FOR HIS OFFER AND TOLD IT WOULD BE PASSED TO APPROPRIATE OFFICE AND ANY FURTHER CONTACT WOULD BE IN SANTIAGO. HE WAS TOLD NOT TO ATTEMPT TO INITIATE CONTACT WITH AGENCY IN SANTIAGO; HE COULD, HOWEVER, CONTACT EMBASSY FOR NORMAL CONSULAR NECESSITIES.

2. [REDACTED]

3. TOWNLEY FILE SHOWS ONLY ONE AGENCY PERSONAL CONTACT WITH TOWNLEY; HIS INTERVIEW [REDACTED] ON 25 NOV 70.

4. FILE CONTAINS 21 DEC 71 MEMO WRITTEN BY AMEMB POLOFF STATING TOWNLEY APPROACHED EMBASSY ON BEHALF OF CHILEAN GROUP WISHING EXCHANGE INFORMATION OF UNSPECIFIED NATURE IN RETURN FOR NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF CHILEAN MILITARY OFFICERS. TOWNLEY PROFESSED IGNORANCE OF GROUPS PURPOSE, BUT SUGGESTED INFO REQUESTED NEEDED TO COMPILE MAILING LIST. ACCORDING TOWNLEY, GROUP MEMBER, ANTA LIPTHAY, WAS KNOWN TO EMBASSY OFFICER WHO HAD SINCE LEFT CHILE.

SECRET

Declassified and  
Approved for Release  
July 2000

(63)

07 Mar 78  
[REDACTED]

TOT: 07 MAR 78

DIRECTOR

POLOFF TOLD TOWNLEY THAT USG AVOIDED CONTACT WITH HIGH-WING OR OR CLANDESTINE POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS. HIS GROUP FELL INTO THIS CATEGORY. NO FURTHER CONTACT BETWEEN POLOFF AND TOWNLEY INDICATED IN FILE.

5. AMEMB SANTIAGO #617, 9 JUNE 73 REPORTED PRESS ACCOUNTS OF POSSIBLE IMPLICATION OF TOWNLEY IN 20 MARCH 73 THEFT IN CONCEPCION OF GOC ELECTRONIC JAMMING EQUIPMENT. ACCORDING PRESS, TOWNLEY AND TWO OTHERS ALLEGED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH "PATRIA Y LIBERTAD" HAD STOLEN EQUIPMENT AND CAUSED THE DEATH BY ACCIDENTAL STRANGULATION OF A CHILEAN CITIZEN. ACCORDING TO THEN DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS, TOWNLEY BELIEVED TO BE IN THE UNITED STATES.

6. ACCORDING TO SANTIAGO 941466 (22 JUNE 73) AS OF JAN 73 TOWNLEY FREQUENTLY VISITED U.S. CONSUL. TOWNLEY TOLD CONSUL THAT HE, ALONG WITH TWO FRIENDS IN "PATRIA Y LIBERTAD," HAD CONSTRUCTED AND RUN THE CLANDESTINE RADIO WHICH BROADCAST FOR FEW DAYS DURING OCTOBER 72 GENERAL STRIKE. TOWNLEY CLAIMED TO HAVE TAPES OF MONITORED TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN MILITARY MINISTERS, AND OFFERED TO MAKE THESE AVAILABLE TO AMEMB. CONSUL REJECTED OFFER AND INSTRUCTED TOWNLEY CEASE ALL ACTIVITIES WHICH WERE POLITICAL IN NATURE AND TERMINATE HIS "PATRIA Y LIBERTAD" RELATIONSHIP.

7. ON 14 JUNE 1973 TOWNLEY TELEPHONED [REDACTED] TO NOTIFY HIM OF HIS PRESENCE IN THE U.S. AND MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE FOR DEBRIEFING. TOWNLEY SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CHILE FROM EARLY 1971 TO APRIL 1973, AND CLAIMED TO HAVE PERFORMED NUMEROUS "OPERATIONAL SORTIES, MASS COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES, AND INFORMATION GATHERING BY ELECTRONIC MEANS" FOR VARIOUS (UNSPECIFIED) POLITICAL PARTIES. HE SAID HIS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES HAD FORCED HIM TO LEAVE CHILE ON 26 APRIL 1973 AND THAT HIS DEPARTURE WAS "FRONT-PAGE NEWS." HE ALSO SAID THAT THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT REQUEST HIS EXTRADITION TO ANSWER AN UNJUSTIFIED CHARGE OF MURDER. ON 18 JUNE 1973 TOWNLEY RECONTACTED [REDACTED] BY TELEPHONE AND WAS TOLD THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD DO FOR THE AGENCY, BUT IT WOULD ACCEPT ANY

V  
P  
E

ON TOWNLEY OR HIS ACTIVITIES SUBSEQUENT TO HIS 13 JUNE 1973 CONTACT.

SECRET

PAGE 003  
TOT: 07 [REDACTED] MAR 78

DIRECTOR [REDACTED]

TOWNLEY SAID HE HAD TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO CONTACT AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES IN SANTIAGO, BUT WAS CERTAIN THEY WERE AWARE OF HIS ACTIVITIES IN CHILE.

8. ABOVE LESS FYI IN PARA 4, MAY BE PASSED TO AMBASSADOR ONLY.

9. [REDACTED]

END OF MESSAGE

SECRET